CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

3 OCTOBER 2016

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles—9/11 Hijackers' Time in SoCal at Center of Allegations of Saudi Government
(U) With Congress opening the way for 11 September families to sue Saudi Arabia, victims' families are focusing on an unproven theory that a Saudi consular official in Los Angeles and a Saudi intelligence operative in San Diego directly assisted two of the 19 hijackers by helping them find housing. FBI and CIA reviews concluded that no senior Saudi officials were aware of the plot, and the 9/11 Commission found "no evidence that the Saudi government as an institution or senior Saudi officials individually" funded al-Qa'ida, but left open the possibility that lower-ranking officials may have played a role. If the lawsuit prevails, US courts could order the seizure of Saudi assets in the United States to pay the families.
SOURCE: 1 October 2016, Los Angeles Times

(U) Santa Ana—Heightened Earthquake Alert Issued for Southern California
(U) Southern California cities should remain on heightened alert into early this week for the increased possibility of a powerful earthquake following a swarm of temblors near the Salton Sea, officials announced. The Salton Sea is located on the 800-mile-long San Andreas, the state's fastest moving fault, which experienced 142 temblors starting on 26 September. Because of the cluster of quakes, scientists estimate the likelihood of an earthquake of a magnitude 7.0 or higher increased to between 0.03 and 1 percent, according to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.
SOURCE: 2 October 2016, Orange County Register

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia—Hackers Used Outside Vendor to Access State Voter Info
(U) Washington—Foreign hackers were able to gain access to voter-related information in four states by targeting not only government systems, but also by breaking into computers associated with private contractors hired to handle voter information, according to news sources. While officials have publicly admitted Illinois and Arizona had their systems compromised, officials have yet to acknowledge that information related to at least two other states' voters has also been exposed, including Florida's. According to sources with knowledge of the matter, hackers working on behalf of the Russian government are suspected in the onslaught against election-related systems.
SOURCE: 1 October 2016, ABC News

(U) Minnesota—Health Investigators Working to Identify Source of Legionnaires' Disease Outbreak
(U) Hopkins—State health investigators are intensifying efforts to pinpoint the source of the Hopkins outbreak of Legionnaires' disease even as three new cases were confirmed on 30 September, bringing the total to 23 sickened and 1 dead. After weeks of testing and disease tracking, epidemiologists at the Minnesota Department of Health still have not found ground zero of the outbreak, but believe it is consistent with a cooling tower exposure rather than any other water source. To date, 90 cases have been identified in the state, compared with no more than 60 cases in each of the past four years.
SOURCE: 1 October 2016, Star Tribune

(U) New York—Marijuana Labs Spawn Lethal Explosions Across Country
(U) New York—A New York fire battalion chief died responding to an explosion on 27 September in a Bronx home that authorities say had been converted into an indoor marijuana farm. An hour before the explosion, dozens of nearby residents said they could smell gas wafting over the neighborhood. The house had already been evacuated and fire personnel were on the scene when the blast sent debris flying, killing Chief Michael Fahy. In recent years across the country, methods used to produce more potent marijuana extracts have resulted in explosions and other catastrophes.
SOURCE: 1 October 2016, Los Angeles Times

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Afghanistan—Taliban Launch Major Assaults
(U) Kabul—The Taliban launched two large-scale assaults in Afghanistan this morning, attacking the northern city of Kunduz from several directions and killing a police chief in the southern Helmand province, where they threatened to overrun a district. Elsewhere in Afghanistan, attacks on civilians and soldiers claimed at least seven more lives. The US military spokesman in Afghanistan, Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland, said the Kunduz situation "remained fluid," with "increased Taliban activity within the area."
SOURCE: 3 October 2016, Associated Press

(U) Columbia—Columbians Reject Peace Deal with FARC
(U) Bogota—Colombians narrowly rejected a referendum yesterday on a peace deal between the government and former rebel group FARC that took over four years to negotiate and would have ended five decades of war. In a final result few were anticipating, 50.22% of voters voted "no" on the single-issue ballot. The measure would have required forgiveness for the estimated 220,000 lives lost and given the FARC ten seats in Congress. The measure's failure now require the rebels and Columbian government to go back to the drawing board.
SOURCE: 3 October 2016, CNN

(U) Iran—Government Unveils New Attack Drone
(U) Tehran—Iran's Revolutionary Guard unveiled a new attack drone which is similar to a US unmanned aerial vehicle captured five years ago and is capable of carrying bombs, state media reported on 1 October. Iranian news agencies said the drone is similar to the RQ-170 Sentinel spy drone used by the US and that the long-range drone can carry four precision-guided bombs. Also on Saturday, the Tasnim news agency published photos of what it said was a US-made MQ-1C drone captured recently by the Guard, but did not say when or how the drone was captured.
SOURCE: 1 October 2016, Fox News

(U) Japan—Android Malware That Can Infiltrate Corporate Networks is Spreading
(U) Tokyo—An Android malware is spreading across app stores, including Google Play, and has the capability of stealing sensitive files from corporate networks, according to security firm Trend Micro. DressCode, a family of Android malware, has been found circulating in at least 3,000 Trojanized apps, and is difficult to detect because the malicious coding only makes up a small portion of the overall app. The malware is particularly dangerous because it can infiltrate whatever internet network the infected device connects to. Trend Micro has found DressCode infecting enterprise users in the US, France, Israel, Ukraine, and other countries.
SOURCE: 30 September 2016, PC World

(U) Mexico—Sons of 'El Chapo' Likely Behind Deadly Ambush
(U) Culiacan—Sons of jailed drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman were likely behind an armed attack

on a military convoy on 30 September, which left five soldiers dead and 10 wounded, a senior security official said. The convoy was transporting a detainee, Julio Ortiz, in Culiacan in northern Sinaloa state when it was ambushed by armed men hurling grenades causing two of the convoy's vehicles to burst into flames. Ortiz was taken alive by the attackers, but it was unclear whether he was an ally or enemy of the armed men.
SOURCE: 30 September 2016, Reuters

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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